

STATE OF OHIO

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness and Prevention Month

Healthy children are the most important resource in the great State of Ohio; and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders – an irreversible, lifelong condition that affects every aspect of a child's life and their family – poses a serious threat to the potential health of our future generations; and

prenatal exposure to alcohol is the leading cause of preventable birth defects, mental retardation, learning disabilities, attention deficits, and behavior disorders; and

23 percent of women reported drinking alcohol in their first trimester of pregnancy in a recent survey; and (Source: National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome)

individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders often have secondary disabilities, such as trouble with the law, substance abuse issues, disrupted school experiences, employment problems, and homelessness; and

one in every 100 babies born in Ohio each year suffers physical, mental and developmental disabilities as a result of his or her mother's decision to drink or use drugs during pregnancy; and (Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

it has been estimated that the cost of FASD to Ohio taxpayers for providing special services for education, juvenile justice, medical and behavioral health services, foster care and unemployment is nearly \$300 million every year (Source: Ohio Department of Health); and

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are entirely preventable; and

no amount of alcohol is safe to consume for a pregnant or nursing mother -- *Not a Single Drop*; and

people around the world began observing International FAS Awareness Day on September 9 each year beginning in 1999, in order that on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, the world will remember that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TED STRICKLAND, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby officially designate September as:

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

In Ohio, to promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, to increase compassion for those individuals so affected, to minimize further effects, to ensure healthier communities across this great state in the future.



Ted Strickland
Governor